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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Applicants argue that Claim 1 is directed toward an isolated nucleic acid molecule for a salt-tolerant L- myo-inositol 1-phosphate synthase from *Porteresia coarctata* (PcINO1) comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1, or a nucleic sequence encoding a protein comprising SEQ ID NO. 3 and thus in order for references to teach or suggest the sequences recited in claim 1, the references must teach or suggest the sequence which Raychaudhuri et al. fail to do. It is assumed that applicants intended this argument to say thus in order for references to teach or suggest the nucleic acid recited in claim 1, the references must teach or suggest the sequence recited in the claim. However, this is not true as the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 is simply an inherent property of the nucleic acid encoding the protein disclosed by Raychaudhuri which nucleic acid is made obvious by the combined disclosures of Raychaudhuri et al. and Yoshida et al.

Applicants further argue that in order to implement Yoshida's method in *P. coarctata*, one would require some knowledge of the *P. coarctata* gene sequence in order to amplify, isolate and sequence the *P. coarctata* myo-inositol 1-phosphate synthase gene. However, this is not persuasive as Yoshida et al. clearly isolated the *O. sativa* myo-inositol 1-phosphate synthase gene without any prior knowledge of its nucleotide

sequence thus clearly evidencing that prior knowledge of the nucleotide sequence of a gene of interest is not necessary in order to isolate it. Yoshida isolated the *O. sativa* myo-inositol 1-phosphate synthase gene by differential screening of cDNA libraries from embryogenic calli and organogenetic calli using radioactively labeled and randomly primed first strand cDNA from unorganized calli, embryogenic calli and organogenetic calli and isolating clones which hybridized to the cDNA of embryogenic calli only, sequencing the insert of the clone, 5'RACE (which includes PCR amplifying) isolating the 5' end of the gene which was not present in the originally isolated clone and then sequencing the complete insert (see page 66 of Yoshida et al.). One would reasonably expect this same method to be useful for obtaining the *P. coarctata* myo-inositol 1-phosphate synthase gene encoding the protein disclosed by Raychaudhuri et al. also.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rebecca E. Prouty whose telephone number is 571-272-0937. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Mondays

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Mondesi, can be reached at (571) 272-0956. The fax phone number for this Group is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval

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/Rebecca Prouty/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1652